

TOBACCO CONTROL RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM (TOBAC) AS OF JANUARY 2005

Source: CRISP Database, January 2005

Grant: 5R01TW005931-04
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: BROOK, DAVID W
Title: South Africa Adolescent Smoking: A Longitudinal Study
Institution: NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE NEW YORK, NY
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The goal of this prospective longitudinal study is to examine the etiologic determinants of changes in tobacco use in a sample of South African adolescents. The proposed sample includes 750 black and 750 white adolescents ages 12-17 at Time 1. The study will attempt to: (1) identify the risk and protective factors that can affect South African adolescents' tobacco use; (2) examine the interrelations and interactions of personality, family, peer, ecological context, tobacco context, and cultural factors as they affect the course of tobacco use (i.e., stability, change) and nicotine dependence in a sample of South African adolescents; (3) examine the relationship between early tobacco use and later adolescent functioning; and (4) establish an infrastructure for tobacco research in South Africa. Individual interviews with the subjects will be conducted by trained interviewers at two points in time. Scales with adequate psychometric properties measuring the independent variables will be developed. The primary analytic techniques will be LISREL, hierarchical, and logistic regression. The significance of this study lies in: (a) its longitudinal design with in-depth, intrapersonal, interpersonal, cultural, and problem behavior data available on South African youth; and (b) strengthening the research base in both the United States and in South Africa. This is the first time this type of data will be available for South African adolescents, especially for so large a sample at particular risk for tobacco use. Knowledge of the risks for tobacco use, and the consequences of tobacco use for functioning are important for determining the foci and timing of effective prevention and treatment programs. A major focus will be on capacity building and developing an infrastructure in South Africa. Our research will also focus on developing a fuller understanding of cultural factors which is critical for establishing effective prevention and treatment programs to deal with growing problems due to tobacco use.

Grant: 5R01TW005964-03
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: FERRY, LINDA H MD
Title: Asian Leadership Training for Tobacco Control Research
Institution: LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY LOMA LINDA, CA
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Background: According to the World Health Organization (WHO) "one in four of all tobacco related deaths occurs in the Western Pacific Region" (WPR) which also has the highest prevalence of male smoking in the world. The paucity of reliable information on the rapidly growing tobacco epidemic compounded by the lack of local trained researchers in tobacco control in three WPR countries (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia) serves as the major impetus and basis for this proposal. Building on strong, existing relationships, Loma Linda University (LLU) will collaborate with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in each country to address these needs by integrating capacity building and research in the context of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Specific Aims: 1. Design and conduct in Cambodia an innovative, transdisciplinary, competency based Global Tobacco Control Methods certificate program (220 didactic and 200 field practicum hours) using a modular curriculum that develops tobacco control research leadership skills in health professionals. We will use distance learning and web based methods to facilitate communication and mentoring. 2. Conduct research to: (a) Monitor tobacco use prevalence and attitudes regarding tobacco prevention counseling among Cambodian medical students "Healthy Doc-Healthy Patient" (Year 1); (b) Estimate national prevalence of tobacco use among adults (>21 years of age) and identify predictors in a defined subset (21-39 years) of regular users (Years 2-3); and (c) Assist trainees in designing a comprehensive five year national research plan (Years 4-5). Impact: The proposed sustainable model, potentially replicable in other countries, creates a new cadre of local researchers who will effectively respond to the tobacco challenge, locally and regionally.

Grant: 5R01TW005938-03
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: HU, TEH-WEI PHD SOC SC/REL
DI:ECONOMICS, OTHER
Title: Tobacco Control Plcy Analysis & Intrven. Eval. in China
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY BERKELEY, CA
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): China is the biggest consumer of tobacco products in the world, with over 320 million smokers. However, there has been very little research on the effectiveness of tobacco control interventions in China and even less sharing of information across the country on what has been done so far. The state is the sole producer, distributor and employer in the tobacco sector, which is economically very important, generating 11% of central government revenues in 2000. There has been little research on the economic implications of tobacco use and control nationally and at provincial level, and so policy makers in provincial and central government have lacked good information on which to base decisions about additional tobacco control measures. To address these pressing needs, this proposal would (1) build capacity among Chinese researchers in the areas of the economics of tobacco control and evaluation of tobacco control interventions and policies; through training and mentoring and working with Chinese researchers to (2) conduct additional needed research on key issues in the economics of tobacco control, such as impact of additional tobacco tax, economic costs of smoking, cost effectiveness of tobacco control intervention; and (3) disseminate widely the results and strengthen dialogue with policy makers in the provincial and central governments of China. This proposed research capacity building project will provide opportunities for collaboration between health economists and health services researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, the World Bank, and three major Chinese universities: Beijing University, Sichuan University, and Fudan University, and the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine. This project proposes collaboration between the World Bank and participating universities. The World Bank will contribute its staff time, assist in evaluation of its interventions from Health Project VII. It is anticipated that by the end of this project; China will have a group of solid tobacco control researchers specializing in intervention evaluation and policy related research.

Grant: 5R01TW005944-03
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: ISRAEL, EBENEZER MD
Title: Egypt Smoking Prevention Research Initiative
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALT PROF SCHOOL BALTIMORE, MD
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Egypt is the most populous country in the Middle East. It serves as a bridge between the West and the Arab countries. Cigarette and water pipe smoking and medical complications of tobacco use are increasing at an alarming rate. Half of male Egyptian physicians are smokers. The overall goal of this initiative is to establish research and capacity building projects to reduce tobacco use in Egypt. We propose to carry out observational, interventional and policy research in Egypt and build capacity for smoking prevention. Specific Aims are: 1) create the Egyptian Smoking Prevention Research Institute (ESPRI) to perform smoking prevention research within the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) and to become a World Health Organization Collaborating Center; 2) implement epidemiological surveillance and research on tobacco use, tobacco harm and risk factors for tobacco use including studies of special relevance to Egypt, e.g. smoking water pipes and monitoring the high smoking rate among physicians; 3) conduct molecular epidemiology research to identify genetic and environmental risk factors associated with addiction and tobacco harm; 4) conduct intervention research to reduce community second-hand tobacco smoke in villages and reduce cigarette and water pipe smoking in physicians and young adults; 5) carry out policy research to study implementation, enforcement, and enactment of laws and regulations to protect the public from tobacco harm; 6) build capacity and strengthen infrastructure by long- and short-term training of health care providers, health educators, government workers, laboratory personnel and non-governmental organizations. Lasting partnerships will be established between U.S. and Egyptian investigators. Research associates will be trained on tobacco-related issues through their work on these projects. Training workshops will be conducted for MOHP staff and media groups. In addition, the formation of a tobacco control coalition will strengthen the role of non-governmental organizations as partners in tobacco control. The proposed studies will add significantly to the current knowledge base in tobacco control efforts specific to Egypt. The establishment of the ESPRI and the professional development of Egyptian investigators and Research Associates will accelerate Egypt's efforts to become tobacco free.

Grant: 3R01TW005944-03S1
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: ISRAEL, EBENEZER MD
Title: Egypt Smoking Prevention Research Initiative
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALT PROF BALTIMORE, MD
SCHOOL
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

Abstract Text Not Available

Grant: 5R01TW005991-03
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: JHA, PRABHAT MD
Title: Strengthening monitoring of Indian tobacco mortality
Institution: ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL TORONTO, ON
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The project will aim to strengthen and expand India's Sample Registration System (SRS) to obtain reliable estimates of cause-specific mortality from tobacco smoking and chewing in various parts of India by age, gender and socioeconomic group. The SRS is the primary system for collection of Indian mortality data. It is a large demographic survey to provide annual estimates of birth, death and other fertility and mortality indicators at the national and state level. The SRS consists of 6,671 sample units (4,436 rural and 2,235 urban) covering 1.1 million households and a population of about six million. Sample units are selected from the preceding census frame to be representative of the population. The SRS sampling frame will be soon expanded to over 8,000 units, covering over seven million people. Specific goals of the project are: implementing a validated verbal autopsy instrument in the SRS so as to obtain reliable information on the cause of death (for tobacco as well as numerous other causes); determining past tobacco use for adult deaths and current use from living controls within the dead person's household (so as to provide retrospective case-control data annually); specific addition of questions to the baseline questionnaire of the SRS on tobacco and other risk factors, so as to turn the SRS into a uniquely large, reliable and representative prospective study; and follow-up of deaths by cause of a 1998 Special Fertility and Mortality Survey that obtained data on smoking from about two million adults within the current SRS sampling frame (including one million males of whom 40% would smoke). Pilot studies would begin in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, home to 191 million people and about one in six of the SRS units. The project will build sustained capacity within India's flagship mortality surveillance system to monitor a heterogeneous and growing tobacco epidemic, evaluate the effectiveness of control policies and create reliable information for individuals and policy makers. Specific steps will be taken to translate the research findings for state and national policy makers.

Grant: 5R01TW005969-03

Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON

Principal Investigator: LANDO, HARRY A PHD GEN/EXP
PSYCH:GEN/EXPER PSYCHOL-
UNSPEC

Title: Cessation Research and Training in India and Indonesia

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Tobacco use is one of the greatest causes of preventable death and disease in human history. Over the next two decades, deaths due to tobacco will soar to 4.2 million annually in Asian countries, nearly twice that of developed regions. India and Indonesia are especially hard hit by the tobacco epidemic and cigarette consumption is actually increasing in both countries. Tobacco cessation capacity is in its infancy in India and virtually nonexistent in Indonesia. Cessation represents the only realistic means of significantly reducing the toll of death and disease from tobacco in the first part of this century. The current project will emphasize capacity building in both of these countries and will focus on creating an infrastructure to promote cessation among tobacco users. We have brought together an outstanding team of international experts in a cross-disciplinary effort to do needed formative research, cessation trials, and training. Key objectives of the project include: developing knowledge capacity through intensive training in state-of-the-art research in tobacco cessation for collaborating researchers, fostering experiential capacity through formative research and expanding educational system capacity. A major objective will be widespread dissemination of study findings both during and following the conclusion of the project.

Grant: 5R01TW005945-03
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: OSSIP-KLEIN, DEBORAH J PHD
Title: Technology Assisted Dominican Republic Tobacco Control
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER ROCHESTER, NY
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The globalization of the tobacco epidemic, with particular increases in use in low and middle income countries, points to the need for research partnering between investigators from high income countries with well-developed tobacco research programs and their counterparts in low and middle income countries. The proposed project is designed to establish and evaluate tobacco awareness and cessation activities and to build research capacity in the Dominican Republic (DR) using the existing infrastructure of high technology LINCOS containers currently established in sites around the country. Harnessing existing technology to bring culturally appropriate tobacco interventions to both rural and urban dwellers, and to populations with a range of education, knowledge, and literacy skills, can bring tobacco control activities into the 21st century in a way that is replicable, maintainable, and translatable globally. The DR is an ideal site for this project, as it has among the highest smoking rates in the region with little evidence of systematic tobacco control procedures in place, and is the most advanced in its use of the LINCOS containers so can serve as a beach head for replication of effective tobacco intervention models to other low and middle income countries that will be adopting the LINCOS technologies globally. The proposed project will establish international and local professional and community working groups to guide the development of interventions targeting adult tobacco users in 6 communities in the DR. Interventions will include LINCOS-based video and easily navigable interactive web-based awareness-raising and cessation programs, with referral from healthcare providers trained in brief tobacco use screening and counseling, and from direct community awareness-raising programs. A methods development trial will randomize six communities to intervention or delayed intervention control conditions. Infrastructures for tobacco use and tobacco-related disease monitoring will be developed with local partners.

Grant: 5R01TW005935-03
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: PEREZ-STABLE, ELISEO J MD
Title: Tobacco Use Among Argentinian Youth: A Cohort Study
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Smoking behavior and the values and beliefs that influence this behavior are acquired during childhood and adolescence and are heavily influenced by individual, cultural, familial, and social factors. To further our knowledge of the smoking behavior of adolescents, we will conduct a longitudinal school based survey among high school youth of two ethnic groups (Kolla and European descent) in the province of Jujuy, Argentina (Jujuy thereafter). Specifically, the goals of this study are to assess the prevalence of smoking behavior, as well as the predisposing, reinforcing, and facilitating factors associated with smoking acquisition within this population. Based on the descriptive study, we will develop and pilot test components of a tobacco prevention intervention across youth of different social and cultural characteristics. Finally, we will implement a multicomponent training component for researchers from Jujuy and northwest Argentina. The specific aims of the study are as follows: Aim 1. To identify the patterns of transition from smoking susceptibility to initiation to experimentation to regular smoking in a cohort of 3000 urban and rural 8th grade public high school youth of Kolla and European descent in Jujuy for a period of three years. Aim 2. To define the personal, interpersonal, cultural, and contextual factors (e.g., peer influence, the value of health, urban/rural residence, socioeconomic status, media exposure, and smoking restrictions) that affect the development of smoking among a cohort of 3,000 8th grade students of Kolla and European descent. Aim 3. To develop and pilot test components of a culturally appropriate intervention in the public high school, of Jujuy with the goal of modifying smoking behavior. The intervention will target modification of predisposing and reinforcing factors for smoking.

Grant: 5R01TW005952-03
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: PERRY, CHERYL L PHD
Title: Mobilizing Youth for Action Against Tobacco in India
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES MINNEAPOLIS, MN
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The goal of this project is to prevent the onset and reduce the prevalence of tobacco use among adolescents in India. There are three specific aims of the project. 1) To conduct a randomized, multi component, community intervention trial in 4 cities and 56 schools in India, focusing on preventing the onset and reducing the prevalence of tobacco use among adolescents in grades 6-9, using an updated Project Health Related Information Dissemination Among Youth (HRIDAY) intervention. 2) To increase the capacity of researchers in India to conduct large scale behavioral interventions, including applying behavioral theories in intervention design, developing valid and reliable measures, conducting thorough process evaluation, tracking a large number of students over time, and analyzing data using appropriate methods for group randomized trials. 3) To increase the capacity of school students, school staff and community members to conduct effective tobacco control to reduce adolescent tobacco use. Two large cities (Delhi and Chennai) and two middle-sized towns (Indore and Bhubaneswar) will be recruited. Within cities, 12-16 schools will be selected, matched, and randomly assigned to one of two conditions: the Project HRIDAY multi component intervention or delayed intervention program (control). The Project HRIDAY condition involves classroom based behavioral curricula in grades 6-9, parental education, media advocacy, peer leadership, and community linkage programs. The delayed program condition will receive intervention programs and training in Year 5 of the study. All intervention materials will be developed by the investigators based on prior research. The interventions will be evaluated with two cohort samples of young adolescents over two years. The cohorts will be in grades 6 and 8 in each of the 56 schools at pretest. Outcomes with adults will be measured using interviews with a sample of adults in the neighborhoods near the schools. Process measures will assess teacher compliance and feedback, peer participation and perceptions, and implementation of the parent, media, and community components. Capacity building will be accomplished through an extended seminar at the University of Minnesota; face to face meetings among the investigators; training sessions with community coordinators, community facilitators from local non government organizations, teachers and peer leaders; and a dissemination workshop with representatives from all states and territories in India.

Grant: 5R01TW005993-03
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: PETO, RICHARD MOTH
Title: Monitoring tobacco mortality in 2M adults in 4 countries
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD OXFORD OX2 6HE UK,
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): A major obstacle to tobacco control in non-Western countries is the lack of reliable local evidence about the extent to which tobacco is currently causing death from particular diseases, and about any large changes in these hazards. The most efficient, direct means of getting this information is through prospective studies of large populations in which baseline information on tobacco use and a few other important characteristics is collected, and then, in the following years, deaths and their causes are monitored. We have already established large collaborative, prospective studies in nine distinct populations in six non-Western countries to assess the current relevance of tobacco (and a few other major causes of death) to cause-specific mortality, and to monitor the evolution over the next few decades of the relevance of tobacco and other risk factors to cause-specific mortality. This application relates to support for six of these studies in four countries, which together will include two million adults. The following items are recorded for each participant: tobacco and alcohol habits (both by locally appropriate questions), blood pressure, weight and height, peak expiratory airflow, personal identifiers (with consent to long-term follow-up), previous history of selected diseases, and a few questions relevant to each population. Follow-up requires monitoring, by a variety of means, the underlying cause of all deaths in the cohorts over the coming years. In addition, a few thousand in each population will be resurveyed to monitor changes in characteristics and to allow appropriate correction for the "regression dilution bias." Early follow-up from the first study to be established, of 250,000 men in China, has already been carried out, so the feasibility of this approach is known (although adaptations for each particular population will be needed). Follow-up in all six populations will require funds both to carry out the fieldwork and analysis and to provide training opportunities to our collaborators in both the generation and the politically effective use of reliable epidemiologic evidence. The information gained through these studies will feed back into public consciousness, public health and future research strategies. We already have evidence that this has taken place in China, where the earliest study was established.

Grant: 5R01TW005977-04
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: RESNICOW, KEN A PHD HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
Title: Tobacco Control in S.Africa: Prevention and Capacity Bu*
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT ANN ARBOR ANN ARBOR, MI
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): This 5-year project represents a collaboration between the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University and the Medical Research Council (MRC) of South Africa (PI: Dr. Priscilla Reddy). In addition to working with our primary partner, the MRC, the collaboration will include two well-established universities, the University of Cape Town Faculty of Health Sciences (Dr. Dele Amousoun) and the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine, University of Natal, Durbin (Dr. Jinhabahi). The study has two interrelated primary aims. AIM 1) Conduct a randomized trial comparing the effectiveness of two approaches to tobacco use prevention in a multiethnic sample of South African youth grades five to seven. One of the interventions will be based on a social skills/peer resistance model (Dr. Gil Botvin's Life Skills Training Curriculum), the other on a Harm Minimization model (KEEP LEFT), developed by the principal investigator with colleagues from Western Australia. Approximately 36 Schools will be randomly assigned to one of three experimental groups. Group 1 (comparison) schools will receive usual tobacco and substance use education. Group 2 will receive the Life Skills Training curriculum (adapted for South African youth) beginning in Grade 5, continuing through Grade 7. Group 3 will receive the KEEP LEFT, Harm Minimization curriculum (adapted for South African youth) beginning in Grade 5, continuing through Grade 7. The primary outcome for the school-based intervention study will be 30-day cigarette use. AIM 2) Conduct a comprehensive capacity building initiative to enhance the expertise, across the entire spectrum of tobacco control (e.g., prevention, cessation, and legislation) of South African educators, clinicians, researchers, and policy makers. The main objective to achieve this aim is to conduct an education and training program for five discrete audiences: health and allied professionals, university-based researchers from several disciplines, undergraduate and graduate students from health sciences faculties, university policy makers as well as parliamentary portfolio committees, and legislative, policy and program planners at the national and provincial levels.

Grant: 5R01HL073699-03
Program Director:
Principal Investigator: SAMET, JONATHAN M
Title: Epidemiology & Intervention Research for Tobacco Control
Institution: JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY BALTIMORE, MD
Project Period: 2002/09/30-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The low and middle-income countries of the world face a rising threat to public health from the rapidly escalating epidemic of tobacco use. Strong evidence based programs are urgently needed to promote tobacco control. However, few less developed countries have sufficient infrastructure or capacity for tobacco control research, and funding for such research may be unavailable or extremely limited. This application builds on the strong partnerships already established by the Institute for Global Tobacco Control of the Bloomberg School of Public Health and sets out a strategy for enhanced tobacco control research and capacity building in Asia and Latin America. The overall goal is to train tobacco control researchers who can work individually and collaboratively to carry out tobacco control research and use the evidence to implement effective interventions that will result in policy and behavioral change. The core elements of the program will include in-depth training of tobacco control leaders in the regions, regional training and policy relevant epidemiologic and intervention research. Established researchers will receive in-depth training at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to equip them not only with needed research competencies but also with an understanding of the relationship between tobacco control evidence and effective policy. Regional training workshops will focus on key regional needs and help to establish a network of tobacco control experts within and between countries who can develop and implement collaborative research projects. Research needs will be established through interactions with stakeholder groups and policy makers in each region. For the initial year, research projects are proposed based on research needs identified as policy relevant through prior collaborations. In Brazil, a national survey of tobacco use and tobacco related knowledge, attitudes and behavior is proposed in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute. In China, the proposed research effort is a community intervention trial focusing on the creation of smoke free homes with the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine. In Mexico, the Institute plans to work with its partner, the National Institute for Public Health, to estimate smoking attributable morbidity and mortality, and associated costs. Additional projects will be developed by research associates and supported with funds from this grant. Our partner institutions are well positioned to sustain this project.

Grant: 5R01TW005962-03
Program Director: PRIMACK, ARON
Principal Investigator: WARD, KENNETH D. PHD
Title: Establishment of the Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies
Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS MEMPHIS, TN
Project Period: 2002/07/01-2007/06/30

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Tobacco use is becoming epidemic in developing countries. Unless current trends are reversed, tobacco will kill 10 million people annually by the decade of 2020-2030, with a staggering 70% of these deaths in developing countries. This epidemic has been curbed in the US and other developed countries with intensive scientific study of tobacco use, but developing nations often lack the capacity and infrastructure for such scientific efforts. This is especially true in the Eastern Mediterranean (EM) region, where the tobacco epidemic is largely unchecked in countries such as Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. This application's overarching goal is to establish a center for the study, treatment, and prevention of tobacco dependence in the EM. The Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies will serve as a national and regional resource for tobacco control efforts, including epidemiological study, clinical research, and prevention and cessation intervention development. The Center also will serve as a focal point for dissemination of information relevant to tobacco control efforts in the EM region. In its first five years, the specific aims of the Center are to: 1. Learn methods for studying tobacco use and local smoking practices using key informant interviews and focus groups to guide the development of epidemiological, clinical laboratory, and treatment strategies. This Year 1 effort will provide the SCTS's foundation. Second, an epidemiological study during Years 1 and 2 will detail the patterns and determinants of tobacco use and cessation in Aleppo (Syria's second-largest city), focusing on cigarette and narghile (water pipe) use. 2. Describe, in a clinical laboratory established in Aleppo, the subjective, physiological, and behavioral effects of smoking systems that are popular in, and in some cases unique to, the EM. This laboratory will be established in the first 12 months of the project and two detailed studies of tobacco use will occupy the laboratory during Years 2-5 of the funding period. 3. Test a primary-care based smoking cessation intervention tailored to the Syrian setting based on data from epidemiological and clinical laboratory results. This intervention will be developed during Year 2 and implemented and tested in Years 3-5. 4. Train Syrian tobacco researchers so that the expertise and resources necessary for sustaining and expanding the SCTS will be in place locally at project's end. Training components will include a fellowship program for study in the United States, sponsorship of an annual regional tobacco control conference, and expert consultation and resource-sharing via Internet for other researchers and institutions in the EM.